

John H. Alexander Esq.

Sir

State Department
June 1st 1846

I have received several communications from you in reference to your claim against the State, but as I have communicated to your Brother Mr. Tho. S. Alexander my views upon the subject with the request that he would confer with you I did not suppose a reply necessary. I stated to your Brother and now state to you that I cannot pay your claim unless I am furnished with some proof to show that the time necessarily consumed in superintending the copying of the Yancey Measure &c is fairly worth the amount charged by you.

Your Brother suggested some plan for estimating the value of your services and promised after talking with you to write me upon the subject. The letters which you have sent to this Department certify that in the opinion of the Writers the superintendance of such work is worth two dollars per day, but are all entirely silent as to the time which should be properly occupied in such superintendance.

The Legislature had no right to impose this duty upon me, but as I have felt sincerely desirous of gratifying you in the matter, I will ~~have~~ great pleasure in paying you such amount as in my own judgment would be right, or in paying the whole Bill, if I can be furnished with evidence of its correctness, which would justify me in public opinion.

With respects, Your Obedt. Servant

Thos. G. Pratt

Annapolis June 2nd 1846

Sir,

Captain Merritt stated to me that he would be prepared to offer his men for Muster into the Service of the United States, on Saturday last and he was accordingly ordered to report to your Washington City on that day. His neglect to comply with this order certainly authorizes the acceptance of another Company instead of the one which is under his command.

If any other Company of Volunteers should offer their services, to me before Captain Merritt is ready with his men I should certainly accept them & order them to be received by you.

I sent by mail of this day direct to you at Washington the Commission for the 1st & 2nd Lieutenants in the Company by which Mr. Smyth was originally recommended. I await your recommendation of a Surgeon.

At test.

Wm. M. Patton

Res^{ts}

Thos. G. Pratt